



26 APRIL 2026 AM

2 Corinthians 8:7-8

SURPASS

= to become better, greater or stronger; to go beyond

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:14-15

INTRODUCTION

- we continue in **2 Corinthians, chapter 8**, as Paul instructed the church at Corinth concerning their giving...not just of their money, but of themselves

verse 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

this is a reference to the churches in Macedonia Paul was using as an example

- as we will see by the end of the message this morning, Paul had a great desire for the churches in the ancient world to live a godly example before the world around them

NOTE: the seven churches of Asia found in *Revelation* would be a good personal Bible study to do

1 Timothy 3:15

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

...when it comes to living a focused life...priorities don't just fall into place. They are not something into which we stumble. We must deliberately determine our priorities and then intentionally live by them.

You don't *find* a prioritized life; you make it.

While we can't live neatly packaged lives, we can live priority-shaped ones.

~ *Focus*, by Paul Chappell, page 106

- in his first letter to the church at Corinth, Paul had many things that needed to be corrected

by the time this second letter arrived, he was able to congratulate them on how they had improved in their daily Christian living

2 Corinthians 8:7

Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

- the church had accomplished wonderful growth, but they were far from finished...

likewise, we have plenty of work to do before the Lord returns

this morning, let's observe the accomplishments of the church at Corinth and the examples set by other churches in the New Testament

1. GREAT CULTIVATION OF WORTH vs 7

Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

in last week's sermon, I gave an outline for this verse, and it's worth going back and looking at it in some detail

the church at Corinth abounded in several things:

abound = to overflow; to have in excess

their faith

CONVICTION

Hebrews 11:6 without faith it is impossible

Proverbs 3:5-6 trust in the Lord

their utterance

COMPETENCE

Colossians 4:3 open a door of

Ephesians 6:19 may be given

their knowledge

COMPREHENSION

James 3:13 endued with...among you

2 Peter 1:2 grace and peace...through

their diligence

COMMITMENT

James 1:22 be ye doers of the word

their love

COMPASSION

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 have not charity

John 13:35 by this shall all men know

* alliteration borrowed from John Phillips

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

as a person, can you show that your life has value or worth...do you make a difference?

as a church, what purpose do we serve in our community and in the world at large?

our life is a gift from God...what we do with it is our gift to Him

every member of this church should desire to grow deeper in the faith, become stronger servants of Christ, and to be an active part of what God is doing

2. GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES vs 8

I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

in this verse, Paul gave us his reason for challenging the church at Corinth...

there were other churches doing more
and were more effective in serving

forwardness = diligence

 **verses 1-5**

Paul wanted the church at Corinth to grow and prove the sincerity of their love

their love for God

their love for Paul

their love for the lost

1 John 3:17-18

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Colossians 1:9-11

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

this was Paul's desire for every church

cf **Ephesians 4:11-13**

the church at Corinth

1 Corinthians 1:4-7

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

the church at Rome

Romans 15:14

And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

the church at Thessalonica

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

the church at Colossae

Colossians 1:4-7

Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: as ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

as I was sitting at my desk, finishing this sermon, a missionary shared a Facebook post with me concerning church land we helped to purchase in Zambia:

This land is not just a piece of ground. It represents a future. A place where the gospel will be preached clearly, where families will grow in the Lord, where children will be taught truth, and where lives will be changed for years to come. What we started today is laying the groundwork for something that will outlast all of us.

1 Timothy 1:16

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

what pattern are you showing?

Titus 2:7-8

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing incorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.